

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 211147Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2331

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T MONROVIA 3595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS, XA

SUBJ: ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN AFRICA

REF: NAIROBI 5075

1. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON LIBERIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND STRESS OUT BELIEF WE SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED THIS ISSUE.

2. ON SUBSTANCE GOL-GOI RELATIONS, IT WILL BE RECALLED LIBERIA WAS RELUCTANT DRAGON IN OCTOBER AND DECISION TO BREAK WAS NOT HAPPY OR EASY FOR TOLBERT AND HIS ADVISERS. PRESENTLY OIL PROBLEMS FOR GOL CONTINUE TROUBLESOME AND WE ASSUME LIBERIANS WOULD NOT WANT MAKE ANY DECISION WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE THEIR SUPPLY OF SAUDI CRUDE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK. SOME VISITATION (LIBYAN AND SAUDI DELEGATIONS) BUT NO REAL

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AGREEMENT ON WAYS ARAB STATES CAN ASSIST LIBERIA. WE BELIEVE

GOL WILL CONTINUE EXPLORE THESE POSSIBILITIES. ARAB WEALTH IS HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE TO LIBERIANS AND GOL ENTERTAINS HOPES OF RECEIVING AID FROM ARAB STATES ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS.

3. WITH ABOVE IN MIND, TWO COURSES OF ACTION MIGHT RPT MIGHT APPEAL TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HIS ADVISERS. ONE WOULD BE FOR RESUMPTION EITHER AFTER OR JOINTLY WITH OTHER INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN STATES SUCH AS PERHAPS NIGERIA OR KENYA OR ETHIOPIA. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR TOLBERT TO GRASP NETTLE AND MOVE OUT IN FRONT, THEREBY PERHAPS INCREASING HIS REPUTATION ON CONTINENT AS DECISION-MAKER AND MEDIATOR. HE COULD DO THIS ARGUING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL NEGOTIATIONS AND STEPS TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT PEACE, HOWEVER FRAGILE, IN MIDDLE EAST.

4. WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH LIBERIANS, ABOVE TRAINS OF THOUGHT SEEM MOST PROBABLE. CRITICAL FACTOR MUST REMAIN UNINTERRUPTED FLOW CRUDE TO LIBERIAN REFINERY.

5. WORTH RECALLING THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR JUST PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM MONROVIA COMMENTED THAT ISRAEL HAD IN FACT RECEIVED LITTLE FROM ITS SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT LOF EFFORT AND TREASURE IN AFRICA AND WOULD BE IN NO HURRY TO RETURN. IF DEVELOPMENTS PERMITTED A RETURN, ISRAELI REPRESENTATION WOULD BE AT ONLY A FEW KEY CAPITALS WITH MULTIPLE ACCREDITATIONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ARE THEREFORE SOMEWHAT SKITTISH ABOUT NAIROBI-BASED APPROACH. SEEMS TO US IF GOI SERIOUSLY INTERESTED THIS PROBLEM, LOGICAL APPROACH WOULD HAVE BEEN THROUGH AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV OR ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON. COULD INTELLIGENCE OFFICER BE TRYING MAKE POINTS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT BY "SHOWING IT THE WAY TO RETURN TO AFRICA"? IF SO, WOULD REINFORCE OUR VIEW EXPRESSED PARA 1 ABOVE. MANFULL

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